maximum of Rs. 50,000 / - to meet the training expenditure of the officials / non-officials involved in the implementation of JRY at the district block / village / Panchayat level provided that atleast 50% of this must be spent on the training of non-officials.

(vi) For the purpose of JRY, the existing forest villages whcih are not part of an existing village panchayat, will be treated as a village panchayat. Forest Department in the districts will implement the programme of JRY in forest villages in consultation with the people of the concerned forest villages keeping the JRY guidelines and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as amended from time to time, in view.

Extending of Railways upto Agartala, Tripura

670. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by Government in extending Railways upto Agartala, the State Capital of Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary studies have been made after the present re-alignment of railways by the side of Assam-Agartala road;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not taking up the work for extension;

(d) whether Government are aware that delay in extension of Railways in Tripura have been blacked the posssibihty of starting Gas-based industry in a C industry State like Tripura; and

(e) if so, whether this work would be incorporated in the next five year plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (e). A survey was carried out in 1985 for extension of the Railway line from "Kumarghat to Agartala. The cost of the 131 Km. M.G. line was estimated at Rs. 283 crores at the 1984-85 price level. The present day cost would be around Rs. 350 crores. Due to poor traffic prospects, constraint of resources and heavy commitments on hand for new line projects the project could not be taken up.

However, a Final Location Survey including bi-modal study for extension of the railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala has been taken up.

Filling up of the post of D.G. ICAR

671. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Director-General in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is still lying vacant;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that in absence of a permanent D.G., **a** number of issues remain pending and there in also resentment amongst the scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and(b). Sir, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agricultural Research & Education functions as Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This post is presently held by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as an additional charge.

(c) All the offical business relating to the Department of Agricultural Research & Education and Indian Council of Agricultural Research are being transacted in the usual manner.